

SERMON NOTES

Dr. Timothy L. Piland

Nansemond River Baptist Church

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FAITH DOES!

“Learning to Wait”

A free economy can be a wonderful thing. A farmer prepares and plants his field using hired labor. He pays them a good wage from profits he made the previous year, and those workers spend their earnings in the local community. Grocery stores, malls, mortgage companies, etc. are all the beneficiaries of that spending; and, hopefully, each laborer puts a little bit into savings for the future. Those savings enable others to make loans for immediate needs.

If it is a good year, the farmer reaps a decent crop, sells it, and makes a profit. The produce makes its way into the markets where people can buy food and clothing, and in each case everyone benefits, the farmer, the workers, the manufacturers, distributors, merchants, clerks, and the buyers. Hopefully, the following spring, the whole process is repeated.

The problem arises when someone in that economic chain gets greedy. They think more of a profit than they do people. That's what happened in James' day. The farmer was defrauding his workers in order to get rich. He lived in affluence while his employees went without! Because he had money, influence, and control, the world considered him a success; but, James says God saw things differently. He is the ultimate Judge Who would one day rule on their ungodly behavior. In fact, their dishonest gains would turn out to be evidence used against them. But, what about those who were cheated?

It's not easy *getting the short end of the stick!* In fact, life can be pretty miserable when you spend all your time fighting for or standing up for your rights. But, the world is not always fair. Injustice is often a part of life. Jesus warned His disciples, “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*” (John 16:33)

Justice is on the way, but it may be a while in coming! Where do you get the patience to *wait*? How do you persevere until the *Judge* arrives?

James 5:7-12

How do you get through the *bad times* while you *wait* for the good times?

I. Stand _____. “Be patient!” (Vs 7)

II. Stand _____. “Establish your hearts!” (Vs 8)

III. Stand _____. “Do not grumble!” (Vs 9-11)

IV. Be _____. “Do not swear!” (Vs 11)